

Appln. No. 09/898,467

Supp. Amd. dated December 16, 2003

REMARKS

Appreciation is expressed to Examiner Morgan for her assistance during several recent telephone conferences. During those telephone conferences, it was agreed that application claims 9 and 24 would be allowed if placed in independent form.

This has been done by the present amendment, which includes several minor editorial revisions to claims 9 and 24. These revisions essentially replace the recitation of "an optical imaging system" by recitation of "an optical system including an imaging system".

In addition, a number of the pending claims have been cancelled and new claims 34-55 have been added. Each of the new claims depends, directly or indirectly, from a respective one of allowable claims 9 and 24.

Since, by the present amendment, and preceding amendments, 17 of the original claims have been cancelled, and 22 claims have been added herein, the required fee for five added claims is submitted herewith.

The subject matter of the added claims is fully supported by the original description as follows:

- Claims 34-36 and 48-53 - Figs. 11-13;
- Claims 37 and 48 - the subject matter of original Claim 6;
- Claim 38 - Fig. 9 (element 113);

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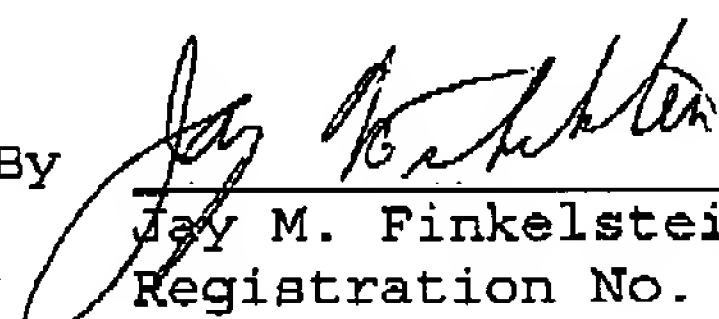
- Claims 39-43 and 54 - Fig. 9 and description thereof;
- Claims 44-47 and 55 - Figs. 11-13 and relevant description.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the application should now be considered to be in allowable condition, and it is therefore requested that the application be allowed and a formal Notice of Allowance be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

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